



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE EXHIBITS

TO BE SHOWN AT EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., SEPTEMBER 15-21, 1940

In the belief that preservation of shelter, clothing, food, and health are as necessary to national defense as preparation to repulse invasion, the Eastern States Exposition at Springfield, Mass., September 15-21, has arranged with the United States Department of Agriculture to show exhibits designed to help American citizens in the prevention of unnecessary waste.

Two large groups of outstanding exhibits, one entitled "The War on Erosion" and the other "Domestic Enemies - Guard Against Them," have been engaged. "The War on Erosion" is intended to point out how to prevent enormous losses of fertile soil through wind and water erosion, because fertile soil is absolutely necessary to the American food supply. The other display, "Domestic Enemies - Guard Against Them," will show how to conserve family income through control and prevention of damage to buildings, clothing, food supplies, and health, by insects, fire, and other home hazards.

Many people do not realize how important to the Nation's welfare is the conservation of soil, or how great are the losses that are occurring all the time. This is made easy to understand by the center feature of the Department of Agriculture "War on Erosion" exhibit, wherein a huge bell tolls every few seconds and emphasizes that at every stroke of the bell many thousands of tons of good American soil are washed down to the sea and lost. Supporting exhibits illustrate how this loss can be and is being greatly reduced by properly planned use of land and the growing of crops by methods that prevent run-off washing by excessive rainfall.





With seventy-five percent of the Nation's farm lands sloping, it is apparent that prevention of soil loss through erosion requires wise utilization of all proved methods of land cultivation, contour and strip cropping, terracing, growing of pasture and roughage crops, crop rotation, and the growing of forest products on land best suited to that purpose.

Among the "domestic enemies" that may weaken the Nation in its defense program are termites that attack buildings; moths, ants, roaches, and other insect pests in the home that damage clothing, furniture, and food; bean beetles, cutworms, potato bugs, and many other insects that without adequate control destroy food before ever it can be harvested. The common housefly by its filthy habits renders food unfit for use and menaces health by carrying disease. Preventable fire hazards in the home may wipe out the savings of a lifetime if not guarded against. How to meet these domestic enemies and overcome them is made plain by these exhibits, many of which are especially interesting through clever animating devices, changing lights, and striking illustrations.

A display of current Department of Agriculture publications will aid visitors in ascertaining where and how to obtain additional information relating to their farm and home problems. Department representatives will be present with the exhibits to assist interested persons in getting the greatest possible benefit from the displays. The Department will also aid materially, as it has for many years, in the boys and girls 4-H Club exhibit in Camp Vail, one of the most important departments of the Eastern States Exposition.

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